GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1820
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Encroachment on Forest Land
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether encroachment of forest land has been reported in various parts of the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check/remove the said encroachment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (b) As per the information provided by the State/UT governments, the forest area under encroachment is 18,994 Sq kms which is approximately 2.47 % of the total forest area of the country. The State/UT-wise details of the forest area under encroachments in the country are given in Annexure-I.

(c) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government and therefore the action to remove encroachment is taken as per the provisions of various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and various rules & regulations thereof by the states. The Details regarding removal of encroachment by State Governments are not maintained in the Ministry.

To prevent fresh encroachments various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments such as setting up of check posts, barriers, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, use of Global Positioning System (GPS) and Differential GPS), improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas and construction of boundary pillars. Local communities are also involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/ Village level committees.

The Ministry supplements the efforts of the States/UTs in protection and management of forests through Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Intensification of Forest Management Scheme.
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